

Dr. Shuddhananda

Bharati

Poet

Nightingale

Subramaniya

Bharathiyar

Life story of Bharathiyar

S. Ram Bharati Editions



Poet Nightingale Bharathiyar

I. Verses on Bharathiyar

A. Bharathi Panchakam

(Five verses on Bharathiyar)

1. Hail her victory, blow the conchs
white,
Sing the glory of the Motherland,
in the songs of Bharathi, and
Dance with the banners of the
Mother all around.
2. To the defunct life of the erstwhile
flourishing Tamils,
Regenerating charge of lightning
has he been,
Emerged he to give us a rejuvenated
life,
That we may pray for the welfare of
all alike!
3. Driving away fear, breaking the
bonds of servitude,

Rooting out ignoble thoughts raised
the nation,
That it may reach lofty heights in
the world,
The immortal poet who conquered
Time!

4. "All are one caste" proclaimed he,
Defiling discriminations driving
away,
Arrived the immortal poet – the cas-
cade of words,
And a flame burst of fiery heroism!
5. We'll praise Bharathi in his own
powerful words,
And dance – men and women all
together,
We'll establish his unfettered divine
art,
And spread his glory in all the eight
directions.



B. Appearance of Bharathi

- a. Slim, golden-creeper-like body had he.
Spirited, blazing bright eyes had he.
Stirred by emotional words jumped he.
Jumping and dancing singer was he.
- b. "Fright has no place!" said he.
Sharp, sword-like moustache had he.
Contemptible, bonded life despised he.
"Ignoble, Ignoble" – feelingly cried he!
- c. "Castes there are none", voiced he.
Drums of equality boldly beat he.
In the streets singing, strolled about he.
In a lordly gait strutted about he.
- d. The Tamil of the scholars – in the land,
Brought into the reach of laymen he.

For all women to walk erect in confidence,
Boldly enunciated laws of equality
he.

- e. Man of valour, exponent of knowledge,
Harbinger of novelty, gifted poet,
Personification of heroic patriotism
is he.

Thus shall we extol his glory.

- f. To the lack-lustre Tamil -
Rendered the vigour of renaissance
he.

May the fine Tamil he fostered, live
long!

And may the fame of Bharathi soar
into the skies!



Poet Nightingale Bharathiyar

II. Life Story

1. Poet Nightingale

We celebrated 'Bharathi Day' for the first time in 1924 in Tamil Gurukulam. We went round the town doing bhajan (chanting hymns) early in the morning. There was a public meeting at 6 o'clock in the evening. Iyer presided. I spoke on the theme 'Renaissance Poet Bharathiyar' for two hours. The speech was punctuated by the melodious rendering of Bharathiyar's songs. The elaboration of that speech appeared as 'Bharathi, an Elucidation'. There was once again bhajan in the night. We sang in great ecstasy Bharathiyar's compositions along with accompaniments.

Soon after the singing was over, Iyer gave a short speech on Bharathi, the 'Gifted Poet' of Tamil Nadu. Then I

continued to speak saying, "There have been many great poets in the world and many have already been given titles such as 'Great Poet', 'Gifted Poet'. We should award Bharathiyar the most suitable title." All the people assembled there were well-versed in the compositions of Bharathiyar. Iyer sought the opinion of the gathering. My friends came out with a number of titles like 'Nationalistic Poet', 'Great Poet', 'Poet Patriot', 'Extempore Poet', 'Modern Poet', 'Regent of Renaissance', 'Lord of the Modern Tamil Poetry' and so on.

Bharathiyar is a Renaissance poet; he has breathed a new life into Tamil; it is because of him the barren land of Tamilagam has turned into a grove in spring. He is himself the nightingale of that grove. In his *Kuyil Pattu* (Songs of the Nightingale), the poet wants himself transformed into a nightingale.

Bharathiyar not only composed songs, but sang them himself. One should have actually heard Bharathi singing

his own compositions. When he sang, *Jayabherigai Kottada* (Beat the drums of Victory) we felt the drums of victory thundering in our ears. His singing of *Engal Muthumariyamma* (Our Goddess Mariamma) brought forth our Motherland as Muthumariyamma to our view. And when he sang *Chuttri Nillade Po, Pagaye! Thulli varugudu vel* – (Don't surround us, you Enemy! Go away, the spear of the Lord comes darting towards you!) in his powerful voice and sprang forward, it seemed that the 'vel' (the spear) itself was darting towards one. His devotional rendering of 'Muruga, Muruga!' created the vision of Muruga Himself coming on His peacock mount and dancing before us. Bharathiyar's stirring song *Bharatha Samudayam* (The Society of Bharath) roused the national spirit among one and all.

“Thus Bharathiyar was not just a great poet, but a nightingale singing melodiously with a great depth of feeling.

Hence 'Poet Nightingale' is a befitting title for him," said I.

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